



UNCLASSIFIED



## House Armed Services Committee

### DAILY SUMMARY – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Current as of 12:00 p.m. EST April 8, 2003

#### Significant Events Last 24 Hours

- An Air Force B-1B bomber dropped four 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) on a suspected meeting of senior Iraqi regime leaders in the al Mansour section of Baghdad. The group may have included President Saddam Hussein and his two sons.
- In their fourth day in downtown Baghdad, U.S. Army units fought a series of battles as they occupied two presidential palaces. U.S. forces are also operating in the vicinity of the Iraqi Information Ministry and the Rasheed Hotel.
- Near Karbala, chemical weapons experts are testing large drums that may contain nerve gas or mustard gas. Secretary Rumsfeld stated it was too early to characterize the find as more detailed tests are being conducted.

#### Coalition Forces Update

- Elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division made a major thrust into the center of Baghdad with a column of approximately 70 M-1A1 tanks and 60 other armored vehicles. U.S. forces have permanently occupied the Republican and Sijood Presidential Palaces.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade established bridgeheads across the Diyala River southeast of Baghdad, attacking to seize the Rasheed Military Airport.
- CENTCOM commander General Tommy Franks toured Iraq yesterday visiting troops in the southern towns of Zubayr and Najaf. General Franks stated that Baghdad is "completely isolated."
- Coalition forces continued to solidify their control of the towns of Najaf and Karbala as they secured supply lines to forces in and around Baghdad.
- British forces are in control of Basra and are assisting with the distribution of humanitarian aid in the city. British forces moved toward the oil fields of Qurna.



#### Iraqi Forces Update

- Scattered elements of various Republican Guard, regular army, and Fedayeen Saddam units continue to fight in and around Baghdad, but are offering no organized resistance. One press report quoted a senior U.S. military official as saying that the Republican Guard had only 19 of its original 800 tanks left.

Sources: Unclassified Department of Defense Sources and Press Reports; map from *The Washington Post*.